

News Advisory



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Office of Historic Preservation to Present Sixteen Awards for Excellence in Historic Preservation

WHO: Office of Historic Preservation

WHAT: Will present the Governor's Historic Preservation Awards for excellence in historic preservation to sixteen projects

WHEN: At 1:00 p.m. on Friday, November 16, 2007.

WHERE: Leland Stanford State Historic Park (Ballroom)
800 N Street (8th and N streets)
Sacramento

The Office of Historic Preservation (HOP) has presented the Governor's Historic Preservation Awards since 1986, when the program was established by Governor George Deukmejian. Since its inception, the awards have differed from other preservation award programs in two important respects: It emphasizes involvement by community groups and recognizes a broad array of preservation activities, from building rehabilitation, to archaeology, to interpretation, to preservation planning. These two characteristics form the mission statement for our program. The awards exist to give praise to the hundreds of groups and local agencies performing widely varying types of important preservation work throughout the state, usually without even a modicum of the recognition they deserve.

This year, the office will present awards to 16 groups throughout the state:

- **Gabrieleno/Tongva Springs Foundation for Sacred Springs Restoration Project**, Los Angeles County. Springs sacred to the Gabrieleno/Tongva people flows through the campus of University High in West Los Angeles. Tongva people, educators, and locals organized the Foundation in 1992 to fight development that would have dried the springs up, went on to secure state funding to clean the springs area, provide interpretation and access to larger community.



- **California Department of Transportation for Prehistoric Research and Public Interpretation at Black Creek Site**, Calaveras County. This award recognizes Caltrans' extraordinary efforts to provide public interpretation of a major prehistoric site excavation. In 2004, as part of improvements along Highway 4 in Calaveras County, Caltrans found it necessary to excavate the Black Creek site. The agency and its consultant went to great lengths to make its findings available to the public and interested tribal groups and for the Me-Wuk, whose ancestors inhabited the site, to share their culture and perspective.
- **Searles Valley Historical Society**, Trona, San Bernardino County. With 300 members, this "jack of all trades" historical society has since 1979 operated a museum, maintained archives, and interpreted the history of this remote former borax mining company town. Led by Trona native Margaret Brush and lacking paid staff, volunteers also developed roadside interpretive panels and keep the museum open six days a week.
- **Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society for Living History Cemetery Tour**, Orange County. This Society has for 33 years created programs celebrating Santa Ana and early Orange County history. The cemetery tour, presented for the past decade at Fairhaven Memorial Cemetery, is an annual fund raiser. Orange County High School of the Arts students play roles of pioneer settlers from scripts penned by Society members.
- **West Adams Heritage Association for Evening Strolls**, Los Angeles County. WAHA represents a large historic district near University of Southern California, home to an incredible array of historic resources, from the Gethsemane Armenian Church to Ray Charles' recording studio with RPM International. The organization seeks to bring life to city streets and appreciation of heritage resources by sponsoring "evening strolls" through the neighborhoods of the district and offering free beverages from a cappuccino cart on "stroll" evenings.
- **Historic Houses Committee of the Stanford Historical Society for Historic Houses Project of Faculty Houses on the Stanford University Campus**. This award recognizes the efforts of the Stanford Historical Society to interpret and gain recognition for historic faculty housing on the Stanford University campus. Through a series of book-length publications, the society has documented and celebrated houses in various quadrants of the campus, which includes the work of Bakewell and Brown, A. B. Brown, Charles Sumner, Birge Clark, and other notable early 20th century designers.
- **City of Campbell for Historic Design Guidelines for Residential Buildings**, Santa Clara County. These guidelines signal to homeowners the preferred treatment options (those most likely to be approved by the city) for five common residential styles and were developed almost entirely

by preservation board members and city staff. They demonstrate how city staff and homeowners can work cooperatively to preserve a precious aspect of the city's heritage.

- **City of Huntington Park for Historic Preservation Ordinance.** This ordinance is noteworthy in two respects. First, as one of the first to be adopted in many years; the vast majority of California ordinances were adopted decades ago. Second, it is one of the first historic preservation laws to be adopted in an overwhelmingly Hispanic community.
- **National Park Service, City of Richmond, Contra Costa County, Richmond Museum of History, and Rosie the Riveter Trust for the Rosie the Riveter WWII Home Front National Historical Park,** Contra Costa County. This project is unique in that the National Park Service owns no property and must rely on local partners to restore and maintain dozens of historic structures and a ship. This award recognizes the success of those local partners. The City of Richmond completed a \$40 million rehabilitation of the Ford Assembly Plant, built a memorial and four waterfront parks. Rosie the Riveter Trust raised millions to restore a WWII child development center.
- **Western Neighborhoods Project for Restoration of 1906 Refugee Shacks,** San Francisco County. Over 5,000 redwood cottages were assembled in refugee camps as temporary housing after the 1906 earthquake and fire. Western Neighborhoods Project organized to restore four cottages slated for demolition as a rare means of explaining and interpreting San Francisco's recovery following the earthquake.
- **San Diego Padres for Western Metal Supply Company Rehabilitation,** San Diego County. This historic 1909 warehouse building was fully incorporated into the recently-completed Petco Field and made part of the left field seating. This combination of historic preservation and ballpark design is unique in California and highly unusual nationwide.
- **San Diego Parks and Recreation for Spreckels Organ Pavilion Lighting Restoration,** Balboa Park, San Diego County. The Organ Pavilion was built as part of the 1915 Panama-California Exposition. Unique to the pavilion was exterior lighting integrated directly into the building's "cast-stone" ornamentation, but by 2004, more than a quarter of the 1,734 fixtures were no longer functioning. San Diego's restoration, which complied with Secretary of the Interior Standards, was a spectacular project the public can enjoy for another 100 years.
- **California State Parks for Rehabilitation of Historic District Cottages, Phase I: Crystal Cove,** Orange County. The 22 beach cottages at Crystal Cove State Park were built in the 1920s and 1930s by private parties who leased land from the Irvine Company. The Company restricted leases and

improvements in 1940, so the community was frozen in pre-1940 time when Parks acquired it and began restoring the cottages in phases to be used as overnight rentals. The work was challenging because the cottages were built to temporary standards and this flimsiness characterized the historic properties. The restored cottages are a huge success both historically and financially; they have enjoyed a 99% occupancy rate since the work was completed.

- **Point Cabrillo Lightkeepers Association and California State Parks for Rehabilitation of Lightkeepers' Residences**, Mendocino County. The Light Station near Mendocino was constructed in 1909. The property was acquired by Parks in 2002, which contracted with the Lightkeepers Association to manage the property for public use. The partners undertook a major renovation of the complex. The East Keepers House was opened to the public in 2005 and in 2006, the Principal Keepers House opened as a bed and breakfast. The project is recognized as a prime example of a successful public/private partnership.
- **San Bernardino Associated Governments (SANBAG) and City of San Bernardino for San Bernardino Santa Fe Depot Rehabilitation**, San Bernardino County. Built in 1918, this Mission Revival depot was one of the largest in the Western US. SANBAG acquired the property in the mid-1990s as it prepared to establish Metro Link service, an alternative to the crippling traffic congestion engulfing the area. This award recognizes the high quality of the rehabilitation, funded chiefly through federal grants, and SANBAG's role in using this asset to serve a new generation of transit users and restoring economic vitality to a depressed section of San Bernardino.
- **California State Parks and Leland Stanford Mansion Foundation for Leland Stanford Mansion Restoration**, Sacramento County. A National Historic Landmark, this spectacular \$22 million rehabilitation was accomplished by a public-private partnership for use as house museum and international protocol center for the Governor and California Legislature.

More information about the Office of Historic Preservation is available at www.ohp.parks.ca.gov.

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